



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

September 4, 2022 + 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it! Whether you are visiting First Presbyterian Church for the first time, or are a longtime member or friend, your presence today is a blessing to our community!

Three very important commitments guide our lives together at First Presbyterian Church: *worship, mission* and *discipleship*. In worship we commune with God and with one another, sing and pray, and measure our lives according to God's Word. Through mission, both local and international, we live out Jesus' call to 'feed my sheep' and serve the least.' In study, prayer, and community, we develop as life-long disciples of Jesus, working for a more peaceful and just world.

Following worship, please stick around for fellowship time. Enjoy a cup of coffee. Spend time in the sanctuary in prayer. Introduce yourself to me and your fellow worshippers. We're glad you're here!

Pastor Andrew
(410) 916-1673 + andrew.long1085@gmail.com

If you are new here, please fill out the card in the pew and place it in the offering plate, so that we can get to know you better.

Hearing help is available during all worship services - please see an usher for assistance.

Nursery Care is available for children to age 4 during all worship Services. You can find the nursery in the education wing of the building. A restroom and quiet room can be found in the narthex.

If you are in need of prayer, please see our Pastor before or after worship, or write your prayer requests in the green book at the front of the sanctuary (by the flags)

Sunday School for pre-school through grade 6 will resume next week, September 11th. Teaching will be Lucy Hiotis. Please see Michele Elmer in Fellowship Hall TODAY to register your kids for Sunday School.

A Word About Today's Service

A question that our Pastor receives often is, "How are the Scripture lessons chosen for each worship service?" For most of the year, the Scripture lessons for worship are chosen according to the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of readings that most churches follow. The lectionary suggests four readings each week: an Old Testament reading, a psalm, a Gospel lesson, and a reading from one of Paul's letters. The lectionary is designed to follow the major contours of Scripture, from the Israelite deliverance through the life of Jesus, and even to Revelation. It is a powerful tool that helps us to read the Bible as one whole narrative, and it is unifying in that most churches on any given Sunday are reading and meditating on the same texts.

Today we rejoin the lectionary cycle after several summer sermon series. Our readings today help us to meditate on discipleship: what does it mean to be a child of God and a follower of Jesus Christ? Is there room in our practice of faith for growth and development? How do we measure our faithfulness to Christ? These questions and more shape our worship today.

Gathering

Pastor's Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

Singing In

Prelude

“Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus”

Dale Wood

*Call to Worship *(adapted from Psalm 139)*

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

**You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

**See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

Let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn #82

“Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him”

*Prayer of The Day

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

The truth we bear together as God's beloved children is that we often fall short of God's glory. In penitence and in faith, let us confess our sin to the One who waits to pour out mercy upon us.

Holy God, we confess that we have failed to put our trust in you completely, instead giving our faith and trust to things that take us away from you. We calculate our gains and losses, hoarding the things that do not lead to abundant life. We judge the faithfulness and worthiness of others, trying to determine whether they belong or not. We simply forget that You have asked to remain at the heart of everything we do, say, and believe.

Forgive us, and help us to treasure you above all things. Teach us to follow you faithfully so that we might discover the blessings only you can give.

a time of silence is kept

The psalmist reminds us that the Lord hears the just when they cry out. Our confession has been heard by God, and through the righteousness of Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

***Response** *Gloria Patri*

*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

A Time With Young Disciples and Blessing of Backpacks Blessing Backpack Tags

Our young friends in Christ, receive these backpack tags as a reminder of how much you are loved by God and by this community. Be loved. Be kind. Be you.

**May these tags remind you that God is always with you.
As you sit and as you stand, as you learn and as you play,
In every fear and every celebration, may you know God,
your friend, is always there.**

A Prayer for the School Year

God of fresh starts and new beginnings,
we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you.
In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils,
and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings,
unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. There are
endless possibilities of what this new year might bring - of
what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might
become.

**God, our friend who is always with us,
be with us through it all.**

Be with us as we ride the bus.

Be with us as we walk.

**Be with us as we buckle seat belts,
zip-up jackets, and tie shoes.**

**However we get there, and whatever we wear,
bless this journey into something new.**

For the grown-ups going back to school,
With-Us God, be with them too.

**Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and
leaders, and for all they do to help us learn and grow.**

**God, our friend who's full of wonder, fill their hearts and
bless their hands. Amen.**

 **We Listen for God** 

Scripture Introduction and Prayer for Illumination

The First Scripture Lesson - Jeremiah 18:1-11

The Second Scripture Lesson - Luke 14:25-33

Solo

“Concerto in Bb Major, Movement 1

Antonio Vivaldi

The Sermon

“When the Clay Resists”

Affirmation of Faith - *Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.



We Respond To God



Community Connect

At this time in worship we share information on how you can connect even better with the community at FPC Watertown.

During this time we also share our joys and concerns, as well as any other relevant information to our life together.

Offering



Donations can be made by either scanning the QR code from the Venmo app or by searching for [@First_Pres_of_Watertown](#).

Offertory Hymn #591

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

*The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper

Invitation to The Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, it is good, and it is joyful
to give thanks to you, God of mystery and miracle.

When there was only darkness, you made light.

When we cried out to you from captivity,
you claimed us as your own.

When we forgot our love for you,
you did not forget us, sending your prophets to turn us around
and renewing your promises
with a bow in the sky, the parting of the sea, your own Son.

And so we praise you,
tuning our voices to the angels’ songs,
joining all those who sing on earth and in heaven:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Thank you for Jesus—
for his teaching and healing, his challenging and feeding,
his living and dying and rising, that we might be raised with
him, and all the world made new.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and wine,
gifts of the good earth,
offering ourselves as a living sacrifice
dedicated to your service.

**Dying, you destroyed our death;
rising, you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on your people gathered here
and on these gifts -

bread and wine of earth,

to body and blood of heaven;

our frail flesh and blood

to your holy people,

that we might be Christ's body to your world.

For this world we now pray:

end all war,

end your wounded earth,

heal those who suffer,

comfort those who mourn,

and infuse us with your peace

that is rooted in what is just.

Through the power of your Spirit unite us with Christ
and with one another

as we work and wait in hope,

confident in that day

when Christ will come to make all things well

and we will feast together at his heavenly table.

All glory and honor are yours, Holy God,

through Christ and in the unity of the Spirit,

now and forever. **Amen.**

And now as Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray...

**Words of Institution
Communion of The People
Prayer After Communion**

***Closing Hymn #666**

“A Charge to Keep I Have”

***Blessing and Benediction**

***Passing The Peace of Christ**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please safely share some sign of
Christ’s peace with your neighbor.

Postlude

“Follow the Master”

St. Dunstan’s, arr. Douglas Wagner

Today’s Radio Broadcast is given in loving memory of **Dr. Douglas M. Sanford**, by his children, Janet Sanford Kowalski, Douglas M., Jr., David and Martha Sanford Curtin.

Family Fun Outing: September 11th after church, gather with the Gleasons in the FPC parking lot. We will be taking a trip to Burrville Cider Mill for some fun with our kids.

Leading in Worship Today:

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long, preaching

Bob Kimball, Liturgist

Carl Bingle, organ

Agnes McCarthy, violin

We Pray For...

Julie & Mike, Barbara, Sherrie, Amy, Jamie, William, Fred M., Josh L., Sister Diane, Shirley, Tyler & Rochelle, Grace, Sam & Ruth, Mary, Tom, Suzanne, Linda & Ken, Shane, Ed, Millie, Gerda, Annie, First Presbyterian, Watertown, NNY Presbytery, Synod of The Northeast, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the people of Ukraine, the sick, all essential workers, students & teachers, medical professionals, all serving in the military, peace & justice, all people in positions of power & leadership.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

September 4	Jonathan White, Jr.
September 5	Jordan Garry
September 5	Jauri Jantzi
September 9	Kevin Kieff
September 9	Skyler Green
September 10	Michael Shanahan II

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRES.

Monday, Sept. 5 - Church Office Closed (Labor Day)

Tuesday, Sept. 6 - Staff Meeting, 12 noon

Wednesday, Sept. 7 - Men's Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.

Thursday, Sept. 8 - Worship & Music Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 8 - Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

Next Sunday, Sept. 11 - "Going Deeper" Study begins after worship with
Large Group Study at 12 noon

